

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072272

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MILI, PEPR, TW, US

SUBJECT:FUTURE OF NAMRU II

REFERENCE: TAIPEI 1341

1. ON MARCH 10 DEPTOFFS MET WITH CAPTAIN J.D. BLOOM FOR A DISCUSSION OF HIS PLANNING ON THE FUTURE OF NAMRU II. BLOOM IS THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND (NMRDC), UNDER WHICH NAMRU II FALLS.

2. BLOOM IS AWARE THAT EITHER FUTURE TROOP DRAW-DOWNS OR NORMALIZATION MAY REQUIRE NAMRU II'S CLOSING. WHILE THE NMRDC HAS NOT REACHED DECISIONS ON THE FUTURE OF NAMRU II, BLOOM OUTLINED HIS PERSONAL PREFERRED COURSE OF ACTION AS FOLLOWS: BLOOM WISHES TO MOVE THE NAMRU II ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF FROM TAIWAN TO A NEW PACIFIC NAMRU HEADQUARTERS WHICH HE HOPES TO LOCATE IN GUAM WHERE CURRENTLY UNUSED
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SPACE WOULD BE AVAILABLE. FROM THIS HEADQUARTERS NAMRU WOULD SUPPORT RESEARCH LABORATORIES IN TAIWAN, INDONESIA AND POSSIBLY OTHER EA COUNTRIES. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NAMRU II'S RESEARCH WORK, BLOOM BELIEVES THAT NAMRU II RESEARCH PROGRAM SHOULD CONTINUE ON TAIWAN AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BUT WITH A SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED US MILITARY

STAFF. WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE THE WITHDRAWAL OF NAMRU'S DOD PERSONNEL, BLOOM HOPES TO CONTINUE THE RESEARCH BY WORKING THROUGH A US CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE (AIBS) OR THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MIGHT BE ABLE TO SERVE AS THIS CONTRACTOR. RESEARCH PROGRAM FUNDING WOULD CONTINUE TO COME FROM NMRDC.

3. BLOOM PLANS TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS ALONG THESE LINES DURING APRIL AND HOPES TO HAVE THEM APPROVED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. ONCE APPROVED, BLOOM WOULD MOVE RAPIDLY TO ESTABLISH THE GUAM HEADQUARTERS BY TRANSFERRING NAMRU II US PERSONNEL FROM TAIWAN, PERHAPS DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR.

4. BLOOM HOPES THAT THE CURRENT NAMRU II AGREEMENT CAN BE RENEWED IN SOME FASHION WHICH WOULD PERMIT CONTINUED OPERATION ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED ABOVE. DEPT SHARES EMBASSY'S HIGH REGARD FOR NAMRU II (REFTEL). UNLESS SUBSEQUENT NORMALIZATION DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRE OTHERWISE, DEPT DOES NOT PERCEIVE ANY PROBLEM WITH EXTENDING NAMRU II AGREEMENT BEYOND OCTOBER 14 TO PERMIT CONTINUED OPERATION ON A REDUCED SCALE. VANCE

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